The Medical Missions of Our Boards in China

HENRY D PORTER, M.D. D.D.

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BY HENRY D. PORTER, M.D., D.D.

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THE American Board has the honor of sending the first medical missionary to China. In 1834 Dr. Peter Parker reached Canton. His personal and social qualities soon marked him a great as well as true pioneer. "He opened China with a lancet." In 1835 he organized the Medical Missionary Society, international in scope, supported by the fine men of those early days. For seventy years it has well sustained its early promise. Dr. Parker served it for twenty years. At the end of twelve years he had seen 50,000 patients. Three-fourths of a million have been cared for. Dr. Kerr succeeded Dr. Parker, of whom Minister Denby said, "Dr. Kerr ought to live forever." The hospital (fully equipped) on the grounds of the Presbyterian Mission, in care of Dr. Swan, is still the typical leader in China. Dr. Kerr planted across the noble river, in the "Flower Garden," the first insane hospital for the Chinese — a new type of sympathy for the vast, sorrowful empire.

A true estimate of medical work requires a wide and general view of the work. Such a view inspires and energizes. The forty-five missions to China have each sent many workers, full of skill, patience, and evangelical zeal. Here we may briefly refer to them, while we give attention to the details of our own Boards.

South China Medical Work at Foochow

The year 1870 began a new era of work in Foochow, in the arrival of Dr. D. W. Osgood. He began at once medical instruction, thus multiplying the efficiency of his work. In establishing the hospital, under the glad recognition of the provincial authorities, he secured a place for medical effort — an example followed later by Dr. Mackenzie at Tientsin.

Dr. Osgood translated and published in well-phrased "Wen Li" "Gray's Anatomy." This made necessary a new and well-chosen vocabulary. "Osgood's Anatomy" has been the standard for a quarter of a century. Twice revised and supplemented by an extended vocabulary, the special contribution of Dr. H. T. Whitney, it is the accepted anatomy of the China Medical Missionary Association. Osgood was succeeded by Dr. Whitney, transferred from Shao-wu, who was followed, in 1889, by Dr. H. A. Kinnear, who is still in charge. The

hospital was looted in 1903, after the burning of the doctor's house, and Chinese officials gave $1,500 towards the rebuilding of the hospital.

Pagoda Anchorage Dr. Whitney began work here in a small way in 1892. "Most of the work has been done with but one assistant. We can reach now from 3,000 to 5,000 annually. We should reach 10,000, for three-fifths of the population cannot go to Foochow for medical aid."

Foochow City The Hospital and Dispensary for Women at Foochow City Gate is under the care of Dr. Kate C. Woodhull and Miss Minnie Stryker, M.D.

Dr. Woodhull went to Foochow in 1884, and the hospital was completed in 1889. A medical class from the girls' college was organized, and a hospital school, with special instruction for patients, is carried on by Miss H. Woodhull. Dr. Stryker joined Dr. Woodhull in 1902. She has special skill in treatment of the eye cases and in the optician's work. The Chinese fit glasses for *presbyopia*, but seldom for near-sightedness, among Chinese women. The latest report for this hospital is for eleven months of 1903 — 10,361 patients and native fees to the value of $242.75.

Our lady doctors at Foochow, as elsewhere,

gain access to official and other homes, denied to other workers.

Ing-hok This station, occupied formerly by Mr. Beard, was reopened in 1903 by Rev. E. H. Smith and wife, and Miss Emily D. Smith, M.D. There is a small hospital, devoted just now to a girls' school, while Dr. Smith is learning the language.

Shao-wu This station, 280 miles from Foochow, was opened in 1873, and medical work began on the arrival of Dr. H. T. Whitney in 1877. Hospital and dispensary work were carried on in full tide, often against opposition and attack. Dr. Whitney was later transferred to Foochow, and Dr. E. L. Bliss joined the station in 1892. During his first five years there were 5,000 treatments annually, which increased to 8,000. After recent riots the hospital was rebuilt in 1903, and in 1898 Dr. Lucy P. Bement joined the station. The Woman's Hospital was built in 1902. Dr. Bement attended 5,677 patients in nine months succeeding the opening of the Woman's Hospital.

We may mention here that the American Board has forty-four medical workers in its fields. Of these, sixteen are women, four of them being missionary wives. Their work is well described by Mrs. Sheffield: "The wait-

ing rooms are the central points of spiritual influence. There we find mingling little children with sallow, wasted faces; young girls shrinking from the strange doctor, and from telling their ills; women clad in rags and poverty with loathsome sores; aged dames, blear-eyed and trembling; women in silks and jewels — surely a group to make us glad that soul life is higher than that of the body."

Hong Kong

Dr. Hager's evangelical work overshadows the medical, and his efforts are confined to giving medical aid on his country tours without effort at keeping record of them.

This is often a most valuable force of work, not confined to medical men, but often necessary for every missionary who sees the constant sorrows and needs of men.

North China Mission

The American Board renewed its interest in medical work in China by sending Dr. A. C. Treat, son of Secretary Treat, in 1867. He was stationed in the far-off city of Yücho, with Rev. Isaac Pierson, till 1873, when they opened the station of Pao-ting-fu.

Pao-ting-fu

The fifth station of the mission was thus the first to have a definite dispensary work. The writer was in charge of

this work, 1875–78. A Chinese inn afforded home, drug room, and hospital. A multitude of patients and many surgical cases were cared for. Dr. A. P. Peck joined the station in 1880, remaining there four years, and developing the work in an admirable way. Dr. Peck went to the Pang-chuang field in 1884, being succeeded by Dr. C. W. P. Merritt, 1885–93. Under Dr. Merritt the houses for homes and hospital wards were built in the south suburbs.

The clientele extended widely into the country and rose from 8,000 to 16,000 treatments per annum. On Dr. Merritt's withdrawal he was succeeded by Dr. W. C. Noble, 1893–1900. The finely established work was in full vigor of success until the Boxer outbreak. In 1901 Dr. Peck was appointed to the station, and he reëstablished both station and medical work on lines of influence with the new viceroy; having joined the viceroy's medical staff, Dr. Peck will be succeeded by Dr. C. A. Young, of Johns Hopkins. Mrs. Dr. Perkins adds much to the medical work here, and Mr. Perkins also, who has had much experience in full dispensary practice, when the demands of preaching are less urgent. The decade, 1889–99, showed an annual clinic of 10,000 to 16,000 patients, or a total of 117,000 for the period.

Tung-cho Medical work at Tung-cho had its initiation in the enthusiasm of Mrs. Sheffield. Dr. Mary L. Holbrook was appointed by the Woman's Board in 1881. She secured premises under the north city wall, where a small but very serviceable hospital was built, with a trained native woman always in charge. Dr. Holbrook left as a memorial of useful effort a volume of chemistry and a second on biology, the elementary forms of plant and animal life, the latter proving most valuable for our students.

Dr. J. H. Ingram joined the station in 1887; but in the Boxer calamities every vestige of work, so carefully superintended by Dr. and Mrs. Ingram, the latter having been a trained nurse, was uprooted.

After indemnities had been secured in 1902, the hospital was replaced, with new and enlarged facilities, in a temple outside of the southwest city gate. The decade of work, 1889–1900, shows an annual clinic of more than 8,000, and a total of 90,000 for the period. Dr. Ingram gives courses of lectures in the medical college of Peking, and has in preparation a volume of "Materia Medica."

Kalgan The medical work of this station, alike for Mongols and Chinese, was well begun by Rev. John Gulick, and by Mrs. Wil-

liams for women. Dr. Victoria C. Murdock joined the station in 1881. The hospital and dispensaries were built and opened, and effective work done for eight years. Dr. Murdock escaped from Boxer disasters by way of Siberia, and the station still awaits medical reopening.

Peking Dr. Murdock was appointed to Peking in 1892, and accomplished very effective work when not supplying need at Kalgan. Five country dispensaries were visited. Hospital and dispensaries were secured and well fitted up on mission ground in the city. In connection with the Bridgman School and Miss Russell's country work great good was accomplished. During the decade 1889–1900, the number of patients seen at Kalgan was 20,000, the number at Peking, 17,000. Most of these represent Dr. Murdock's admirable work. Her pen has been fertile in describing the work in the villages.

Pang-chuang This station was set apart from Tientsin in 1880. Since 1881 medical work has been continuous. It expanded rapidly from the first. Dr. Peck was transferred (1884) from Pao-ting-fu, and for fifteen years, including furloughs and vacations, did most effective work. The writer supplemented in furloughs, vacations, and whenever necessary.

A gift from Dr. Williams founded and gave name to our hospital. Its commodious quarters, with waiting room, dispensary, and operating pavilion, were erected in 1886. In 1896 these buildings were largely renewed, with brick in place of adobe, a new operating room added, with other necessary rooms.

The clientele expanded rapidly from 2,000 in 1882 to 8,000 in 1886. It reached 15,000 annual patients the first decade, and 25,000 in 1897. The hospital inpatients showed from 500 to 800 annually, affording a large field for special Christian work, there being an average of ten days per patient in the hospital. A venerable preacher became hospital chaplain, performing his duties admirably for ten years, from 1890 to 1900.

Dr. Judson Smith says: "The life of a busy station is a wonderful sight to behold. There is the Williams Hospital, with its 25,000 patients each year. The meeting before the regular daily clinic is like a regular Sunday service, with a full and attentive audience. The scene at the clinics is most impressive. The sense of need, of suffering, of faith and hope among the patients, with the sense of capacity, helpfulness, sympathy, and skill in the physician and his attendants, are ever present." An estimate of one year's attendance showed patients from 1,031 villages, represent-

ing sixty counties. Many came two and three days' journey, and a few more than 500 miles.

A summary of the work of two decades is typical of the vaster work in the empire. The first decade sums up 44,163 individuals treated; the second decade 98,952, making a total of 143,000 first treatments, and of 280,000 total treatments. The proportion of men to women was as five to three. Surgical operations during first decade, 3,768; during second, 7,323; a total of 11,000. One-fourth of these were operations connected with the eye. One-half of our native churches had their origin in patients in hospital attendance. The opportunity of reaching men and women through daily teaching, preaching, and personal effort is unsurpassed. At most impressionable times individual lives are touched. The enforced leisure, the daily associations, the Sunday religious services, the learning to read, to repeat selected sentences, to pray in simple words, deepen and fix impressions. Many choose to walk the new way of life and love thus thrown open to them.

Pang-chuang station and hospital was the only one north of the Yellow River not destroyed in 1900. In September, 1901, the station was reopened. Dr. F. F. Tucker and wife, both educated physicians, took up the work in 1903. Having now a hold upon the

language, they can carry it forward to new enlargement and extending influence.

Lin Ching The station was opened in 1885. Medical work was started in 1888 on the arrival of Mr. Chapin and Mr. Perkins. Mrs. Perkins was a medical graduate, and Mr. Perkins had studied medicine. They were joined, May, 1890, by Dr. and Mrs. Wagner. Dr. Wagner developed his work on scientific lines, being an expert in bacteriology and mental pathology. The clientele rose slowly, reaching 6,000 to 8,000 per annum during Dr. Wagner's decade of work. The earlier inadequate quarters were exchanged for a large enclosure and some preliminary wards erected. The mission was destroyed by the Boxers in July, 1900.

Several efficient assistants were trained, one especially skillful in minor surgical operations. Lin Ching still awaits reopening since Mr. Perkins was stationed at Pao-ting-fu. The record of the decade of work shows 53,674 patients in attendance.

Shansi Mission This mission was organized in 1881. In 1882 Tai-ku was selected as their first station. Dr. J. J. Atwood joined the station that year, having had a partial medical training in addition to his

theological studies. On his furlough, 1888–89, Dr. Atwood completed his medical study at Rush Medical College. Returning, he opened the station at Fen-cho-fu and developed the hospital work. The Tai-ku work was taken over by Dr. Goldsbury, who was later stricken down by typhoid fever. These fields have the great drawback of the opium vice, so universal in the province.

The opium refuges established with medical work have proved chief centers of evangelical influence. In 1899 Fen-cho-fu reported 4,000 patients, one-fourth of whom were rescued from the opium curse. Out of twenty-five baptized, seventeen had been opium patients in the hospital, all but two of these seeming to be satisfactory Christians. Among such was the preacher Liu, great in physical form, great in heart as well, a victim at last of the Boxer fiends. Dr. Atwood had barely reached his American home, 1900, before the Boxers had destroyed his work and made martyrs of his foreign associates and of more than fifty of his native disciples. Returning in 1901, Dr. Atwood has made three visits to Shansi.

Dr. Hemingway, with his wife, a daughter of Rev. Mark Williams, went out in 1903 to join this mission, staying at Tung-cho to study for a year.

The medical work of our missions in China sums up a noble work of philanthropy. For the North China Mission, the decade of work shows not merely what one mission may accomplish, but illustrates the work of the 150 men and thirty-five women physicians in China. These six stations record 450,000 treatments. Pang-chuang leads with 150,000, followed by Pao-ting-fu, 120,000, Tung-cho, 90,000, and Lin Ching, 50,000.

The present medical work in China easily reaches a million of patients each year. No organized benevolence would seem to be greater than this. Even this would be meager of result and value did it not touch hearts as well as bodies, bringing living souls into touch with the truth and with God. The Boxer outbreak could not destroy the work done, but it served to illumine in disasters and martyrdoms the reality of Christian faith.

The real work goes on again, already in fuller tide and with more permanent effect. The heart of real love and faith survives. It will be more than possible to replace the evil by the richness of new and divinely appointed life and hope. Our Woman's Boards do no more widely useful work than the equipping and maintaining in full strength their hospitals and dispensary work. This reaches deeper than the kindergarten, in healing the babies

in cradles and the mothers who make the homes.

With the exuberant joy of successful disciples, we should give thanks for such widespread and fruitful opportunity.

San Diego, California,
July 1, 1904.